

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 SCI-06 INT-08 FPC-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 CEA-02 STR-08 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /226 W

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R 081130Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4481

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGC: ETRD EFIN ENRG COMECON FI

SUBJ: CEMA-FINLAND JOINT COMMISSION HAS FIRST MEETING IN MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 14849

1. SUMMARY. FIRST MEETING OF JOINT FINLAND-CEMA COMMISSION
TOOK PLACE IN MOSCOW NOV 29-30. COMMISSION AGREED TO
ESTABLISH WORKING GROUPS ON POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN AT LEAST
ELEVEN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS, INCLUDING ELECTRONICS,
SHIP-BUILDING, TRANSPORT AND CONSTRUCTION. AT NEXT
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MEETING IN OCTOBER 1974 COMMISSION MAY RECOMMEND ACTIVE

COOPERATION IN CERTAIN SECTORS, ON BASIS APPROVAL BY FINISH GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENTS OF "INTERESTED CEMA COUNTRIES." END SUMMARY.

2. REPORT RECEIVED BY EMBASSY LATE IN NOVEMBER OF IMMINENT MEETING OF FINLAND-CEMA JOINT COMMISSION (REFTEL) WAS CONFIRMED IN PRAVDA BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT DEC 1 THAT COMMISSION HELD ITS FIRST MEETING IN MOSCOW NOV 29-30, AND THAT FINNISH DELEGATION LED BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE LAINE. ARTICLE STATED THAT JOINT COMMISSION REVIEWED PROPOSALS MADE BY FINNISH AND CEMA COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES, ESTABLISHED A PLAN FOR COMMISSION WORK DURING 1974 AND DISCUSSED PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR POSSIBLE FINNISH-CEMA COOPERATION IN MACHINE CONSTRUCTION, TRANSPORT, CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND STATISTICS.

3. SAME SOURCE WHICH GAVE EMBASSY ADVANCE NOTICE OF MEETING HAS NOW PROVIDED DETAILS WHICH PROVIDE BETTER PERSPECTIVE THAN SPARSE INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN SOVIET PRESS.

4. ACCORDING TO SOURCE THE JOINT COMMISSION'S FIRST MEETING RESULTED IN AGREEMENT TO CONSIDER COOPERATION IN NUMBER OF ECONOMIC SECTORS. THOSE AGREED UPON WERE CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRY, SHIP BUILDING, POWER STATIONS, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, TRANSPORTATION, CONTAINERS AND CONTAINERIZATION PROCEDURES, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL PROCEDURES, TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND NOMENCLATURE IN INDUSTRY AND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF FOREIGN TRADE.

5. JOINT FINNISH-CEMA WORKING GROUPS WERE ESTABLISHED TO STUDY AND RECOMMEND PLANS FOR COOPERATION IN ALL OF THE ABOVE SECTORS, EXCEPT STATISTICAL PROCEDURES AND STANDARDIZATION WHICH WILL BE HANDLED THROUGH THE JOINT COMMISSION SECRETARIAT. THE WORKING GROUPS ARE TO SUBMIT THEIR REPORTS AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN HELSINKI ON OCTOBER 23 AND 24 1974. THE JOINT COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER THEYE REPORTS AND THEN RECOMMEND JOINT FINNISH-CEMA CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ON THOSE IT CONSIDERS FEASIBLE. IF THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT AND "INTERESTED CEMA COUNTRIES" APPROVE, JOINT ACTION ON THESE PROJECTS WILL THEN BE UNDERTAKEN.

6. THE FINNISH DELEGATION WHICH CAME TO MOSCOW WAS QUITE LARGE, TOTAL- LING 19 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND FOREIGN TRADE EXPERTS. THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY BULGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ANGELOV. THE SOVIETS WERE

REPRESENTED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER MANZHULO, AND OTHER CEMA COUNTRIES ALSO BY DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTERS. CEMA SECRETARY FADEYEV, WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN ADVANCING CEMA COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE EEC, WAS ABSENT BECAUSE OF ILLNESS. HE WAS REPRESENTED BY FNU GORBING OF THE GDR.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE JOINT COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES APPEAR TO BE MOVING ALONG AT A RATHER DELIBERATE PACE, WITH THE NEXT MEETING ELEVEN MONTHS AWAY AND THE FIRST ACTIVE COOPERATION PROBABLY NOT TAKING PLACE UNTIL 1975, THE SCOPE OF PROPOSED POSSIBLE JOINT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS CONSIDERABLE, AND MUCH BROADER THAN REPORTED IN THE SOVIET PRESS. WE THINK IT POSSIBLE THAT THE FINNS MAY HAVE AGREED UPON THIS WIDE RANGE OF SECTORS TO PLACATE SOVIET CONCERN OVER THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED FINNISH AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRO-LONGED, RATHER COMPLICATED BUREAUCRATIC ROUTE TO ACTIVE COOPERATION--INVOLVING WORKING GROUPS, STUDY, RECOMMENDATIONS, APPROVAL, FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIFICATION BY INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS, MAY BE WHAT THE FINNS PREFER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW15328
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731236/aaaabaf1.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 14849
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEMA-FINLAND JOINT COMMISSION HAS FIRST MEETING IN MOSCOW
TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, ENRG, FI, COMECON
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005